

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 A portable handheld computing device has a notification system that alerts  
3 a user of an event regardless of whether the device is on or off. The notification  
4 system has a notification mechanism that is activated upon occurrence of the event  
5 and remains active until the user acknowledges the activated mechanism. In one  
6 implementation, the notification mechanism is a light emitting diode (LED)  
7 mounted externally on the handheld computing device. The LED is visible to the  
8 user when the lid is closed onto the base (i.e., the device is off) or when the lid is  
9 open (i.e., the device is on). The notification mechanism also has a deactivation  
10 button mounted externally of the handheld computing device. The user depresses  
11 the deactivation button to deactivate the LED. The LED and deactivation button  
12 may be integrated as a single component.  
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